INFORMATION LETTER

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RECONVERSION PLAN

Calling for removal of wartime production controls as soon as possible, President Truman August 9 laid down a five-point program for reconversion.

"Every opportunity must be given to private business to exercise its ingenuity and resourcefulness in speeding resumption of civilian production, subject to war needs," the President said in a letter to War Production Board Chairman J. A. Krug in which he requested WPB to follow this five-point program:

1. A vigorous drive to expand production of materials in short supply, to meet both military and civilian requirements.

2. Limitations of manufacture of products which would require materials which are in scarce supply.

3. Broad and effective control of materials stockpiles to prevent "speculative hoarding" that would "endanger our stabilization program."

4. Provision of priority assistance to break production bottlenecks that might impede reconversion.

5. Allocation of scarce materials for low-priced consumer goods essential "to the continued success of the stabilization program."

BULLETINS

Reduction of canned pea point values had been scheduled for August 12 but was withheld at the last minute. It is assumed that because of the sudden development of peace overtures there will be a complete review of the canned foods supply situation and that point adjustments may be made in the light of the findings. Announcement of pea point reductions will probably be withheld until later.

* * *

In view of the possibility that peace developments may effect numerous changes in the canning industry situation, an urgent call has gone out to members of the N.C.A. Planning Committee to attend a meeting at Association headquarters the end of next week.

Status of Price Regulation

As the INFORMATION LETTER went to press, the price regulation for 1945, which revises Supplement 7 and contains the appendices of prices for all vegetables except snap beans and those fruits under Pricing Method 1, had not been signed. However, Directive 75, authorizing the issuance of the pricing order, was signed by the Economic Stabilization Director and filed with the *Federal Register* August 10. Full text of Directive 75 appears on page 8732.

The USDA Price Review Committee was considering the OPA regulation Friday afternoon and was expected to send it to the Secretary of Agriculture for review and signature in time for Secretary Anderson to sign and return the order to OPA by early next week.

Further delay may occur when the order reaches OPA since there is a possibility that the Government Printing Office, because of unusually heavy demands on its facilities at this time, will not be able to print and make copies available for distribution as promptly as expected. The Association, however, will bulletin the canning industry with details of the regulation as soon as signed and issued.

Termination of Beef Subsidy Proposed

What is probably the first definite step toward termination of the government's 1.8 billion dollars a year wartime food subsidy program has been taken by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, with a proposal to eliminate the beef subsidies which are costing the Government an estimated 400 million dollars a year.

Under Mr. Anderson's proposal, half the loss to the packers, who are paid the subsidy, would be made up by an increase in consumer prices. The other 50 per cent of the packers' loss could be made up through reduced prices for cattle, he believes.

The Secretary discussed elimination of subsidies with President Truman and disclosed his plan upon leaving the White House. He said the President did not express himself on the subsidy question.

Secretary Anderson believes that government subsidies should be terminated before the end of the Japanese war, if possible, or at any rate terminated during a favorable price period instead of a time when there is a postwar downward drag on prices.

LABEL PROGRAM APPROVED

Activities of N.C.A. Labeling Committee Subject of Laudatory Bulletin Issued by NMA Affiliate

The activities of the canning industry, particularly those of the National Canners Association and its Labeling Committee in establishing standards, have been given important recognition by the National Industrial Council, an affiliate of the National Manufacturers Association.

The Council's Trade Group Committee on Stndards, Testing, Certification, and Labeling, issued a bulletin on August 3 to the Council membership under title of "A Case Study on Standards and Labeling (Canning Industry)." The following quotation is from that bulletin:

The enclosed reprint of an article, entitled "Standards in the Canning Industry," describes developments over a period of 30 years in the Canning Industry, together with the present activities. Note particularly:

(1) How far back the problem of standards and labeling dates.

(2) The emphasis on precise definition.

(3) The concept of standardized descriptive labeling.

(4) The five essential principles contained in the N. C. A. Labeling Committee Report.

(5) The emphasis on reliable objective measurement.

(6) The fact that the Association's program does not conflict with but actually supplements the Federal Government's statutory program.

(7) The fact that the Association's program is voluntary.

(8) The process of research involved in arriving at methods of "reliable objective measurement."

Reprints of the article "Standards in the Canning Industry," mentioned in the Council's bulletin, may be secured from the National Canners Association offices at 1739 H Street, Washington 6, D. C. Copies of the Association's "Manual for Canned Food Labels" also are available. This bulletin includes, among other subjects, sections devoted to legal requirements and mandatory statements; voluntary additions to mandatory statements; and a section on definitions and standards for label terms recommended by the N. C. A. Labeling Committee.

Alaska Salmon Pack Report

The following table, prepared from statistics compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shows the pack of Alaska canned salmon, by regions and varieties, through July 28, 1945, as compared with a similar period in 1944:

Districts	July 28, 1945	July 29, 1944
	Cases	*Cases*
Western Alaska	693,424	982,802
Central Alaska	1,273,217	1,061,320
Southeastern Alaska	301,783	471,642
Total	2,268,424	2,515,764
Species		
Red	1,066,282	1,422,729
Pink	727,688	515,143
Chum	391,732	493,523
Coho	46,975	51,752
King	35,747	32,417
Total	2,268,424	2,515,564

Fish Pricing Dates Extended

To permit sufficient time for distribution of copies of the orders to the trade, three pricing amendments affecting Pacific Coast fresh and frozen fish, have been made effective August 15, instead of August 7, as originally specified. The amendments are: Amendment 9 to Maximum Price Regulation 579 (erroneously reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER as Amendment 8); Amendment 32 to MPR 364 and Amendment 48 to MPR 418.

USDA Raises Inspection Fees

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced increases in fresh fruit and vegetable inspection charges, and Federal meat inspection and grading fees, both effective August 1. The increases were made to meet higher operational costs (which must be met under provisions of the Farm Products Inspection Act) because of salary increases under the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945.

Carlot inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables now will be $5 instead of the previous $4. For less than one-half carload, inspections have been increased from $2.50 to $3. Inspection fees for peanuts and other nuts will be increased from $5 to $8.75 per carlot.

Federal meat grading fees paid by slaughterers and packers will be increased from $2.20 to $2.70 per inspection hour.

New Special Foods Chief Named

L. Thornton Davis, who has been assistant Chief of the Special Commodities Branch of the Coffee, Tea and Special Foods Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been named Acting Chief, filling the position vacated by James P. Delafield, who has resigned to accept a position with a New York City advertising firm.

Fish Storage Stocks Decline

To reach the normal reserve of frozen fish and shellfish usually built up in the fall for winter use, present holdings of these products would have to be nearly doubled by the first of October, Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, reported August 8.

Quantities of fish and shellfish in freezers and cold storage houses totaled 58,438,385 pounds on July 1 this year, or 20 per cent below the average holdings at this season, and 34 per cent less than the quantity held on July 1 last year.

Mr. Jackson said that because of the heavy demand for fish this spring, accumulated stocks had been drawn down by June 1 to a level approximately 30 million pounds below the quantity held last spring. Although stocks have been built up at a fairly normal rate since the first of June, the deficit of 30 million pounds still remains.

Holdings of cured fish are also low. On July 1, 14,194,693 pounds of salted fish and 806,747 pounds of smoked fish were on hand, compared with 22,035,211 pounds of salted and 985,367 pounds of smoked fish at the same time last year.

Holdings of most of the staple varieties of fish are only about one-third to one-half as large as last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service figures show. For example, holdings of cod fillets have dropped from 6.8 million pounds to 2.4 million; haddock fillets from 4.0 million to 1.2 million; mackerel from 8.4 million to 3.4 million; lake herring from more than two million to 45 thousand; whitefish from nearly two million to about 300 thousand. In contrast to the general trend, shrimp and most other shellfish have shown slight increases.

Nitrogen and Ammonia Released

Limited quantities of nitrogen compounds and anhydrous ammonia for distribution without allocation will be released monthly, starting in September, for shipment to Puerto Rico and into the States lying east of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona, the War Production Board reported this week. Monthly releases of tonnages on a State basis will be made to suppliers, and allocations to individual buyers will be discontinued.

This release of materials will be made in accordance with the provisions of paragraghs (f) and (g) of the general chemicals allocation order, M-300, WPB said. Formerly distribution of these materials under paragraph (f) had been confined to the West Coast.

IMFORMATION CHANGES

Fitzgerald Assigned New N.C.A. Duties; Budd Returns as Director of Information Division

J. E. Fitzgerald, who has been with the Association since 1924 and has been Assistant Secretary and Director of the Information Division for a number of years, has been relieved of his duties as Director of the Information Division in order that he may devote his entire time to administrative assignments designed to achieve closer coordination of the functions of the various divisions of the Association, and to duties concerned with relations between canner-members and the Association that do not pertain directly to specific division activities.

Nelson H. Budd, who for the past year has been editor of "Good Packaging" magazine in San Francisco and who handled the INFORMATION LETTER during the first three years of the war, will take over Mr. Fitzgerald's duties as Director of the Information Division. Prior to his service with the Association, Mr. Budd was for 13 years editor of "Canning Age."

Walter H. McDonald will continue as editor of the LETTER, and Assistant Director of the Division, a post he has filled since he left the War Food Administration Information Service to join the N.C.A. about a year ago.

The reassignment of duties will enable both Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Budd to participate in a proposed program designed to improve and strengthen relations of the Association with its members, the industry, the allied trades, and the consumer public.

Wage and Hour Amendments

Shortly before the Congressional recess Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, for himself and nine other Senators, introduced a further proposal to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (S. 1349). This bill is substantially the same as the proposals made by the same senators in S. 1282, reviewed in detail in the INFORMATION LETTER for July 28, 1945. The latest proposal differs, however, in three respects from S. 1282.

The new bill, S. 1349, would remove any question that overtime would be paid on the basis of the proposed increased minimum rate after a 40-hour week immediately upon enactment of the amendment.

The bill also would expand the prohibition on use of child labor to flatly prohibit any employer from employing oppressive child labor "in or about or in connection with any enterprise" in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.

In addition, the bill would add a new provision that all employee actions for unpaid overtime and liquidated damages would have to be brought within five years. No such provision is now contained in the Act.

USDA Issues Statement on Its Surplus Food Sales Program

Generally parallel policies will govern the disposal of government-owned foods and agricultural products by the Office of Supply, both those which have been declared surplus by government agencies and those which are owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. A statement of policy approved by the CCC Board of Directors incorporates the broad, over-all policies of the Surplus Property Board with the operating procedures of the Office of Supply of CCC and provides a guide for the sale of all foods for which the Office of Supply acts as the disposal agency. The policies outlined are not new—they have been in effect since the inception of sales operations, and no changes are made in the procedure for buying from OS. These policies have been reported from time to time in the INFORMATION LETTER.

The purpose of the new statement of parallel policy is to assure uniform operation and to make sure that insofar as possible sales of both CCC-owned and declared surplus foods will be handled in the same manner, it is stated.

The primary exception to the parallel policy rule is in the sale of commodities for export. The sale of CCC-owned commodities for export, under authority other than the Surplus Property Act, may be made even though there may be a shortage of the commodity in the United States. The exception is necessary to permit CCC to sell to UNRRA, the Red Cross, FEA, and similar agencies to fill overseas commitments. Foods declared surplus under the Surplus Property Act cannot be sold for export unless there is no shortage in the United States and the sale will not result in such a shortage.

Export sales may be made of any farm commodity or product thereof at competitive world prices without regard to the price restrictions now imposed on sales of government-owned surplus foods, but only upon an adequate and properly secured undertaking of the purchaser that the commodity will not later be imported into the United States.

PEAR PRICES FOR GROWER

Average of $73 per Ton to be Basis of 1945 Ceilings Established in Washington, Oregon

An average grower price of $73 per ton will be used in the construction of processors' ceiling prices for the 1945 pack of canned and frozen pears in Washington and Oregon, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Office of Price Administration announced August 6. The prices for certain grades, based upon the average price, also were announced. All prices are the same as those in effect last year.

If the average price paid by a processor for each grade classification is less than the announced price for such grade classification, his ceiling prices for the processed pears will reflect this reduced raw material cost.

To participate in the USDA guaranty purchase program for canned pears, announced March 26, canners must pay for each purchase of pears for canning not less than the applicable price listed below for the raw fruit.

The following price schedule represents the grade prices processors in Oregon and Washington should be able to pay under the 1945 ceiling price structure for canned and frozen pears:

	Per ton
No. 1 grade	$75
No. 2 grade	43

No. 1 canning pears are 2⅜ inches and larger in diameter and No. 2 canning pears are less than 2⅜ inches, but not less than 2¼ inches in diameter.

These grower prices are at processors' customary receiving points and are based upon the customary grades, grading procedures and tolerances for defects.

New WLB Director Appointed

The National War Labor Board has announced the appointment of B. M. Joffe as director of the Division of Administrative Management to succeed William R. Little, who has resigned to accept a position with the Surplus Property Board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion. Mrs. Ruth Tumbleson, who has been assistant to the director, has been appointed assistant director.

SPB General Counsel Appointed

The Surplus Property Board has announced the appointment of Hugh B. Cox, former Assistant Solicitor General, to serve temporarily as general counsel of SPB, succeeding Wesley A. Sturges, who resigned recently.

Restrictions Are Removed on Purchases of Beans by the CCC

All classes of dry beans may now be purchased by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as well as the U. S. armed forces under Amendment 9 to War Food Order 45, effective August 9. While this action means that the Department, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, will now be able to purchase beans of all four set-aside groups, it is not expected to mean either more or less beans for civilians as civilian allocations of beans are not affected by the present amendment.

Under the previous purchasing restrictions—authorized by Amendment 7 to WFO 45, issued December 1, 1944—set-aside beans in Groups 1, 2 and 3 were restricted for purchase by the armed forces or their authorized purchasers, leaving only set-aside beans in Group 4 for purchase by CCC. This was made necessary because of a shortage of beans and the necessity of insuring that the armed forces would receive their requirements. Amendment 9, permitting the purchase of all four groups of beans by both CCC and the armed forces, is a return to provisions existing prior to December 1, 1944.

Pea, Great Northern, Small White, and Flat Small White, which comprise Group 1; Red Kidneys, Group 2; and Baby Limas, Group 3, were the three groups of beans previously reserved for purchase by the Army or its authorized purchasers. This had left only Pinks and Small Reds in Group 4, for CCC purchase. No set-aside at present is required of other classes of beans such as Pintos and Blackeyes.

UNRRA Requests Extra Funds

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration may seek as much as $2,300,000,000 in new funds from member countries in order to carry on its expanded burden of relief work during the next year, it was reported in London, August 7, as the UNRRA Council opened its third annual meeting. It was indicated that UNRRA needs at least $1,500,000,000, and probably as much as $2,300,000,000 to finance its relief work. In addition, the Council will make a strong appeal to the United States to make available the balance of its initial commitment of $1,350,000,000. A total of 550 million dollars is owed by this nation on that pledge, it was stated.

Meanwhile, adoption of a policy by UNRRA of assisting in the resumption of normal international trade in the liberated countries has been announced by Deputy Director General Roy F. Hendrickson.

UNRRA's biggest prospective slice of cash is coming from the United States, which has pledged $1,350,000,000 or roughly 72 per cent of UNRRA's total appropriation, but so far has made available only $800,000,000. Appropriation of the remaining $550,000,000 must wait until the end of the Congressional recess. The American delegation, including Representatives Herter, of Massachusetts, and Pace of Georgia, predicted this would be done promptly, but said they believed Congress might ask many questions on UNRRA's spending.

Some Packers Get Exemption From Quotas of Pickle Order

All packers of cucumber pickles and pickle products who have completed their requirements under War Food Order 101 are exempted from the provisions of the order under Amendment 5 of the order issued and effective August 7 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Those packers who have not contracted for sale to or have not delivered to Army procurement officers a quantity of pickle products equal at least to 40 per cent of the total amount of cucumber pickles and pickle products owned by them on August 17, 1944, or acquired by them subsequent to that date and prior to May 1, 1945, are still required to complete their total obligations under the amendment to the order, even though such fulfillment may mean drawing from their 1945 pack.

USDA officials explained that a new percentage "set-aside" of pickle products from the 1945 crop was not now considered necessary if all the amounts called for from the 1944 pack are delivered to the Army. Many packers have already completed the delivery of the required "set-aside" amount. As the remaining packers complete deliveries they too will be exempted from the provision of the order.

USDA Extends Pickle Offer

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has extended until 5 p. m., August 15, the date that offers may be submitted for the sale of four types of pickles. Offers must be submitted to the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., by this date. (See INFORMATION LETTER for June 23, page 8673, for details of the offer.)

RFC Announces Intention to Sell 13 Surplus Hemp Mills

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, designated by the Surplus Property Board as a disposal agency for capital and producers' goods, has announced that 13 of the 42 hemp mills built with Federal government funds, under the hemp production program of the Commodity Credit Corporation, have been declared surplus. In addition, three other mills are in the process of being declared surplus.

The RFC is ready to enter into negotiations for the sale or lease of these mills. Interested persons or companies are asked to consult with the nearest RFC regional office.

The following lists indicate the locations of those mills in surplus and those in process of being declared surplus.

Surplus mills—Muncie, Ill.; Warren, Ind.; Algona, Iowa.; Mason City, Iowa; Rockford, Iowa; Winchester, Ky.; Blooming Prairie, Minn.; Grove City, Minn.; Hutchinson, Minn.; Jackson, Minn.; Lake Lillian, Minn.; Sherburn, Minn.

In process of being declared surplus—Minonk, Ill.; Mapleton, Minn.; Hartford, Wisc.

The Fairmont Canning Company and the Minnesota Valley Canning Company have leased surplus hemp mills at Wells and Montgomery, Minn., and are using them as barracks for war prisoners.

Capacity Car Loading Urged

The heavy freight traffic load on railroad lines to the Pacific Coast, at a time when critical car shortages exist in several sections of the country, requires that shippers load every car to capacity, the Office of Defense Transportation said August 7.

In particular, ODT said that all provisions of General Order ODT 18A, prescribing minimum loadings, must be meticulously observed.

A post V-E Day tendency on the part of some shippers to relax their efforts to make each freight car do all the work for which it was designed must be corrected at once, ODT officials said. To counteract this relaxation, ODT Railway Transport regional offices have been instructed to check the observance of General Order ODT 18A. Checks already made have resulted in uncovering some conditions, which have been corrected. The checks will continue and wherever it is found that shippers are not observing the terms of the order, action will be taken to obtain that observance, ODT warned.

TOMATOES FOR CANNING

1945 Production Likely to Fall About 3 Per Cent Below Last Year

The 1945 production of tomatoes for processing is expected to total 3,066,100 tons, on the basis of reports received from tomato canners and manufacturers of tomato products containing information on the condition of the crop on August 1 and probable yield per acre. This is about 3 per cent less than the 1944 production of 3,169,900 tons but is 4 per cent above the 10-year (1934-43) average production of 2,168,800 tons.

The 1945 yield indicated on August 1 is 5.10 tons per acre. This compares with the 1944 yield of 5.45 tons and a 10-year (1934-43) average yield of 4.83 tons per acre. An extended period of rainy weather in July inflicted considerable damage to the growing crop of tomatoes in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey but in most of the other important producing States, prospects on August 1 were favorable for better-than-average yields in 1945. The following table shows the indicated production for 1945 as compared with actual production in 1944:

State	1944	Indicated 1945
	Tons	*Tons*
New York	144,000	192,800
New Jersey	220,500	161,900
Pennsylvania	176,000	205,200
Ohio	165,000	178,900
Indiana	551,200	596,400
Illinois	55,900	64,900
Michigan	38,400	37,200
Iowa	14,300	14,000
Missouri	47,600	47,500
Delaware	64,100	51,400
Maryland	330,000	185,100
Virginia	134,900	118,400
Kentucky	9,600	9,000
Tennessee	13,400	11,700
Arkansas	52,200	47,300
Colorado	29,200	44,200
Utah	69,700	60,800
California	951,700	927,100
Other States	102,200	112,300
U. S. Total	3,169,900	3,066,100

Rains Injure Truck Crops

The Atlantic Seaboard area from South Carolina to southern New England stands out as a dark spot in an otherwise favorable picture of the commercial truck crops situation as of August 1. Heavy rains and floods have retarded growth, hampered harvesting and ruined some crops in that area. Humid weather has added to plant disease problems. Among the casualties have been tomatoes in Virginia. Lima bean plantings have been late and crops are reported poor. Crops of snap beans and beets also are late in the East.

Crop progress has been favorable in the West, however, including the important truck crop areas of the Pacific Coast States. The Department of Agriculture, reporting on truck crop developments during the second half of July, adds that there have been no serious losses on the West Coast thus far from the strain on transportation, occasioned by shifting of the nation's war effort to the Pacific theater.

PROCESSING SNAP BEANS

Indicated Production Declines Nearly 5 Per Cent States USDA

During July prospective production of snap beans for canning and freezing declined nearly 5 per cent, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Total production, as indicated by reported condition and probable yields on August 1, is 239,400 tons compared with 226,700 tons in 1944 and the 10-year (1934-43) average of 130,800 tons. Declines in prospective yields per acre were registered during July in New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maryland, Oregon.

Despite the decrease in prospects during July, the production for 1945 is the second largest of record, due largely to the great increase in acreage since 1941. The prospective yield per acre for 1945 is slightly below average but is higher than the yield obtained in 1944.

The following table, from the USDA report, presents the 1944 production and production indicated for 1945:

State	1944	Indicated 1945
	Tons	*Tons*
Maine	5,800	9,400
New York	27,600	33,100
Pennsylvania	7,900	8,800
Indiana	1,200	1,000
Michigan	9,000	8,800
Wisconsin	14,300	14,800
Delaware	1,500	2,000
Maryland	15,600	15,500
Virginia	6,000	6,800
North Carolina	4,700	6,200
South Carolina	3,800	5,300
Georgia	1,000	2,200
Florida	16,200	14,000
Tennessee	7,800	10,400
Mississippi	2,300	1,700
Arkansas	18,700	23,400
Louisiana	2,800	2,700
Oklahoma	11,600	10,800
Texas	13,100	11,200
Colorado	3,500	3,800
Utah	2,100	1,900
Washington	7,600	8,100
Oregon	27,900	21,600
California	6,600	6,600
Other States	8,100	9,300
U. S. Total	226,700	239,400

Canned Poultry Statistics

The quantity of poultry canned during June totaled 14,401,000 pounds, dressed weight. This was the smallest quantity canned during any month so far this year, but was 28 per cent above the quantity canned during June last year, and over four times the quantity canned during June, 1943. The quantity canned during June consisted of 6,955,000 pounds of chicken and 7,446,000 pounds of turkey. The following table shows the quantity canned during 1943, 1944, and the first six months of 1945:

	1943	1944	1945
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January	10,413,000	13,191,000	15,343,000
February	9,425,000	13,586,000	16,390,000
March	10,951,000	13,261,000	18,746,000
April	7,720,000	10,564,000	18,392,000
May	6,553,000	10,056,000	20,011,000
June	3,321,000	11,294,000	14,401,000
July	2,693,000	7,839,000	.....
August	3,320,000	6,701,000	.....
September	5,296,000	6,476,000	.....
October	7,002,000	10,432,000	.....
November	11,400,000	15,449,000	.....
December	11,669,000	12,852,000	.....
Total	89,763,000	131,801,000	.....

CORN FOR PROCESSING

Second Largest Production of Record Is Indicated for 1945

Prospective production of sweet corn for canning and processing in 1945 is the second largest of record. Indicated production, on the basis of reported condition of the crop on August 1, is placed at 1,235,700 tons compared with 1,009,300 tons in 1944 and a 10-year (1934-43) average of 880,800 tons. The largest crop of record was produced in 1942 when 1,282,500 tons were harvested.

The acreage planted for harvest is also the second largest of record, being exceeded only by the acreage of 1943. Indicated yield per acre on this acreage is 15 per cent above the yield last year and is slightly higher than average. Unusually large crops are in prospect for New York, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Maryland, and Washington.

The following table, from the USDA report, presents the 1944 production and the estimated production for 1945:

State	1944	Indicated 1945
	Tons	*Tons*
Maine	41,600	42,600
New Hampshire	1,100	1,500
Vermont	2,500	3,000
New York	45,200	63,600
Pennsylvania	20,300	27,000
Ohio	33,600	41,800
Indiana	49,200	68,500
Illinois	117,400	170,900
Michigan	5,400	6,400
Wisconsin	205,200	207,900
Minnesota	193,700	229,000
Iowa	100,600	125,800
Nebraska	4,800	6,300
Delaware	7,500	12,200
Maryland	79,000	122,200
Tennessee	3,500	4,900
Washington	40,800	40,700
Oregon	15,400	18,400
Other States	42,500	43,000
U. S. Total	1,009,300	1,235,700

House Committee Urges Special Consideration of Coast Problems

A special committee of the House Committee on Military Affairs investigating deferment and manpower problems in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas, has filed a report urging special consideration and treatment of problems in West Coast areas on the premise that specific problems exist there, that the situations differ from those in other areas and must be dealt with on a different basis.

The committee recommended in its report that the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, together with the various executive agencies and departments, provide a more effective means of becoming aware of the problems existing in West Coast areas and considering them realistically so as to prescribe prompt and coordinated remedial action by the proper agencies. "That this is not being accomplished satisfactorily," the report states, "is attested by the serious situation that confronts the West Coast. The railroads, ship-repair yards, airplane plants, rubber plants; stevedoring, warehousing, milk-producing, food-processing, farming activities, housing-construction, petroleum, steel and lumber industries, and other war efforts and related activities all indicate that more can be done to make Washington aware of their problems."

Members of the committee are John J. Sparkman, chairman; Chet Holifield, and J. Leroy Johnson, Col. Francis V. Keesling, Jr., accompanied the group on its West Coast tour to assist and advise.

"Star" and "A" Award Winners

For a second year of outstanding performance in the processing of food, 19 more canners and one freezer have been named to receive the U. S. Department of Agriculture "Star" award. First year "A" awards will go to seven more canners.

The following firms have been approved for the "Star" award:

Edgar F. Hurff Co., Swedesboro, N. J.; D. E. Winebrenner Co., Hanover, Pa.; Fairmont Canning Co., plants at Fairmont, Waseca and Winnebago, Minn.; Minnesota Valley Canning Co., plants at Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Cokato, Winsted, Watertown and Winthrop, Minn.; Fredonia Canned Foods, Inc., Fredonia, Wis.; Fuhremann Canning Co., Appleton, Wis.; Lakeside Packing Co., plants at Manitowoc and Sheboygan, Wis.; Stokely Foods, Inc., plants at Newport and Tellico Plains, Tenn.; The Exchange Orange Products Co., Ontario, Calif.; Cedargreen Frozen Pack Corp., Wenatchee, Wash.; and National Fruit Canning Co., Chehalis, Wash.

"A" awards will go to the following canners:

Sheffield Condensed Milk Co., division of Sheffield Farms Co., Chateaugay, N. Y.; W. S. Wells and Son, Wilton, Me.; Sharp Canning Co., Ohio City, Ohio; Mississippi Valley Canning Co., Osceola, Ark.; Cudahy Packing Co., Denver, Colo.; Davis Bros. Fisheries Co., Inc., Gloucester, Mass.; The Borden Co., West Branch, Mich.; and Wenatchee Valley Foods, Inc., Wenatchee, Wash.

Maximum Wages Announced

Maximum wage ceiling rates have been established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for workers engaged in harvesting prunes, apples, peaches, pears, filberts, walnuts, melons, tomatoes, and other truck crops in Douglas County, Oreg. The action was taken in Supplement 63 to the USDA's Specific Wage Ceiling Regulations, effective August 6.

Short Potash Supply Reported

Because of a continuing short supply of potash, the Potash Producers Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting recommended that existing controls on potash be maintained, the War Production Board reported August 8.

The committee said that the present type of potash allocation contained in Schedule 98 of the general chemicals allocation order M-300, has operated equitably and effectively. Because the supply of potash is still below requirements, the committee said that the proper distribution for food crops requires continuance of this control.

Production of potash will be drastically curtailed unless the manpower supply is improved, the committee emphasized. A particularly serious condition exists in Carlsbad, N. M., where approximately 80 per cent of the national supply of potash is produced, the committee pointed out. Lack of housing, food and services in this area makes it difficult to recruit and keep labor, they said.

A representative of the Foreign Economic Administration reported that the entire potash output in France and Germany will be needed to meet European requirements. Polish mines will be out of operation for an indefinite period, he reported, while potash production in Spain is limited by lack of repair parts. Production in Palestine, however, is expected to continue at the existing rate of output, the FEA representative stated.

Fiber Container Equipment

Direct control over the use of solid fiber shipping container production equipment was relinquished on August 8 by the War Production Board. This action was effected by the revocation of Direction 2 to Conservation Order M-290, originally issued in the spring of 1944 to insure total productive capacity for the manufacture of "V" and "W" boxes, WPB said.

Despite the revocation of Direction 2, WPB paperboard officials pointed out that solid fiber container production equipment still remains subject to all other applicable orders and regulations of WPB such as Priorities Regulation 1, Priorities Regulation 3 and P-146.

Controls on Fiber Containers

In view of uncertainties regarding future military requirements for containerboard, the War Production Board has reported that it is not possible at the present time to revoke Order L-317, governing the manufacture and use of fiber shipping containers. However, WPB did increase the small user exemption from the quota restrictions of the order through the issuance of an amendment on August 7.

At a recent joint meeting of the Containerboard and Fiber Box Industry Advisory Committees, revocation of controls governing fiber shipping containers was recommended by committee members.

WPB pointed out that due consideration was given to the advice of the committees, but that upon investigation it was found necessary to retain controls until the military requirements for the fourth quarter have been determined. These requirements will not be formally determined until early in September, and therefore, no action on L-317 can be considered until that time.

Farm Tire Situation Eased

Production at record levels of farm tractor and implement tires in the last 18 months virtually wiped out a two-year deficit in supply created by the war, Robert S. Wilson, new director of rubber programs of the War Production Board, said August 8 as WPB released estimates of civilian needs for farm tires.

The rubber industry produced 1,103,361 of these tires in the first six months of this year, Mr. Wilson reported. This is at a rate higher than the peacetime peak of 1941, when 2,072,500 were shipped by the industry in the full year.

Relation of Soil Fertility and Other Factors to Tomato Yields

Five tomato fertilizer experiments were completed at the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station as a part of this project, and the results published in the latest report of the Experiment Station. On light colored Crosby silt loam, darker Kern silt loam, and dark-colored Brookston silt loam marked responses were obtained to applications of phosphates which supplied 2,000 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre. Such applications would, however, not be profitable unless the phosphates remained available in the soil for years. Some evidence has been obtained that the phosphate fixing power of these soils has been about satisfied by the large applications and that, therefore, the effect of the fertilizer may be expected to continue for an indefinitely long period. One of the experimental areas is being used to test the persistence of the effect of the initial application of phosphate.

On a fourth experiment involving reddish Pike silt loam, the increase in yield due to phosphates was not so clear-cut, but in this case other factors, especially the presence of a superabundance of nitrates in the plants, apparently limited fruit production.

Potash increased yields on the Brookston soil but not on the Pike. Large applications of nitrogen reduced yields on both those soils. The tests on Crosby and Kern were not designed to study the effects of nitrogen and potash.

On Crosby soil tomatoes mulched heavily with straw produced twice as well as did adjoining cultivated plots.

A field experiment on Crosby silt loam showed that mixing sand with soil of this type increased its friability but not its productivity. One part of sand was added to each eight parts of soil.

The European Corn Borer

There was a general increase in the injury caused to corn grown for canning in certain portions of central Maine during 1943, according to the report of the Maine Experiment Station for the year ending June 30, 1944. In some fields of early maturing corn the loss to the growers was estimated at 50 per cent.

Investigations as to the cause of the steady increase in the population of the European corn borer indicate that there has been a letup in some localities in the cleanup practices usually recommended for the control of the European corn borer. During the fall of 1942, there were some fields in which the corn stalks were not plowed under and others where the stalks were not thoroughly covered. Many of the corn stalks were harrowed out in the spring and in some cases corn refuse was left undisturbed around buildings and feed lots.

It is recommended that those interested cooperate to the fullest extent in cleaning up all corn refuse and in plowing under completely all standing corn stalks before winter weather whenever possible.

Caged European corn borer moths emerged on July 6 during 1943. All the evidence points to but a single generation of European corn borers in central Maine. Investigations show that the overwintering larvae are full grown by the advent of cold weather. Counts of badly infested fields revealed that from 30 to 55 per cent of the stalks were infested.

Nicaragua Needs Machinery for Agricultural Production

It is believed in Nicaragua that imports of about $1,000,000 worth of agricultural machinery must be effected in the next few years to obtain an increase in the production of agricultural products for domestic consumption and export to neighboring countries, according to the Department of Commerce.

Economists in the republic have expressed the belief that agriculture has reached maximum production levels with the present hand methods since there is no surplus of agriculture labor to draw on for additional production.

The value of surplus agricultural products made available in Nicaragua during the current season may be as much as $2,000,000 below the preceding season because of drought in October and November, 1944.

Production of sugar from the 1944-45 harvest is estimated at 24,000,000 pounds which is less by 1,000,000 pounds than estimated domestic requirements. Exports of sugar in 1944 amounted to 7,500,000 pounds valued at $314,885.

New Strain of Asparagus

Among the plant breeding projects under way at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick is one of a high-yielding strain of asparagus developed through a decade of careful selection and crossbreeding. It is believed that the strain may be worthy of introduction and commercial use when a few more seed blocks have been established.

Increase Supports on 1946 Sugar Beet and Cane Crops

Increased producer support payments on 1946-crop sugar beets and sugarcane were announced last week by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in order to enable growers to plan for a maximum crop. The program guarantees growers of sugar beets a national average return, including Sugar Act payments, of not less than $13.50 per ton of beets of the average quality of recent years. This compares with $12.50 in 1945. Under present market conditions, this guarantee for 1946 will call for a payment of nearly $4 per ton of average beets (in addition to Sugar Act payments), compared with a payment of about $3 per ton in 1945.

Growers of sugarcane for sugar in Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Hawaii will receive a payment of $2.10 per ton of average sugarcane, the payment in each producing area to be graduated upward or downward in accordance with the ratio of sugar recovered from the deliveries of the individual producer to sugar recovered from all deliveries in each area. The payment in the case of Louisiana growers will be equivalent to $2.04 per ton of "standard" sugarcane. In the case of Louisiana and Florida this compares with $1.60 per ton of cane in 1945 and for other areas, on a cane equivalent basis, it compares with $1.21 in Hawaii, $1.08 in Puerto Rico, and 90 cents in the Virgin Islands.

An additional provision, applying only to Louisiana and Florida sugarcane growers, authorizes payments of $2.10 per actual ton of frozen sugarcane that is salvaged either for sugar or molasses.

Cuban Duty on Canned Milk

Canned evaporated milk or condensed milk imported into Cuba from the United States is now subject to a special import duty of 48 cents for each case of 48 cans, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Canada Cuts Sugar Ration

A reduction in consumer rations of sugar in Canada for June-December, 1945, from two pounds a person a month to one pound is expected to effect a saving of 30,000 short tons during the current year, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The former ration of two pounds will be restored for September and November as in the past ration periods. Industrial consumption of sugar has also been curtailed.

OES ISSUES DIRECTIVE GIVING OPA AUTHORITY TO SET CEILINGS ON 1945 CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PACK

Order Specifies Method of Determining Prices; Many Changes from 1944 Are Indicated

Directive 75, giving the Office of Price Administration authority to establish maximum prices for the 1945 pack of canned fruits, berries, and vegetables, was filed yesterday with the *Federal Register* by the Office of Economic Stabilization. The directive states that prices for the 1945 pack shall be the same as those in effect last year except for some modifications as to basic wage rates, raw material costs, subsidies, and other adjutments in maximum prices and pricing methods to correct inequities which existed in 1944. Because of this latter provision, it is not possible to determine the full extent of the price changes until the price regulation itself is issued by OPA. It is quite possible, therefore, that prices for a number of items will vary with those in effect last year.

By indirection, the directive again denies the absorption in 1945 ceilings of "fringe" wage increases but leaves the matter open for further discussion.

Full text of the directive follows:

The Price Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture having submitted to me information and their recommendations with respect to the pricing of the 1945 pack of canned fruits, berries, and vegetables and the necessity for securing maximum production of these commodities essential to the war effort, I do hereby find that the measures hereinafter authorized and directed to be taken by the Office of Price Administration will effectuate the purposes of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, as amended, the Stabilization Act of 1942, as amended, and Executive Orders Nos. 9250 and 9328.

The Office of Price Administration is hereby authorized and directed to establish maximum prices for the 1945 pack of canned fruits, berries, and vegetables in accordance with the following principles: Maximum prices for canned fruits, berries, and vegetables shall be the same as those established for the 1944 pack under Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation No. 1, as amended by Amendments 1-24, modified as follows:

1. *Raw Material:* Gross maximum prices shall be computed on the basis of approved 1945 raw material costs and shall reflect changes in grower support or recommended prices authorized by the Economic Stabilization Director. Wherever administratively possible, gross maximum prices of individual processors in each case shall be based upon actual costs of raw material not in excess of recommended or support prices.

2. *Wages:* Maximum prices shall be increased to cover increases in the basic wage rate schedules since January 1, 1944, not already reflected in those prices. These adjustments are to be applied only by processors who actually have incurred wage rate increases. An increase shall be considered to have occurred in the basic wage rate schedule only if the rate for female unskilled labor has increased. In determining the amount of the adjustment the Office of Price Administration shall consider that labor costs will have increased by these percentages:

a. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska —for processors with any increase in basic wage rate schedules, 10 per cent.

b. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas—for processors with increase in basic wage rate schedules up to and including 5 cents an hour, 10 per cent; for processors with increases in basic wage rate schedules of more than 5 cents an hour, 20 per cent.

c. Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico—for processors with any increase in basic wage rate schedules, 7½ per cent.

d. Washington and Oregon—for processors with any increase in basic wage rate schedules, 5 per cent.

e. California—no adjustment.

3. *Subsidized Commodities:* Where subsidies are authorized and directed by Directive No. 60* (including amendments) isued by the Office of Economic Stabilization, maximum prices shall be maintained or established in accordance with that Directive.

4. *Other Changes:* Other minor adjustments may be made in maximum prices and pricing methods to bring them into conformity with the principles on which maximum prices for the 1944 pack were established, to improve the pricing methods and to correct inequities in the maximum prices for the 1944 pack.

Issued and effective this 9th day of August, 1945.

* See INFORMATION LETTER No. 1043 for June 30, 1945, page 8675.

DDT to be Made Available

Beginning this month, limited quantities of DDT will be made available for civilian and agricultural use, War Production Board officials told the members of the DDT Producers Industry Advisory Committee at their recent meeting. This is possible because of increased production of DDT. Civilian and agricultural use has been restricted solely to experimental purposes.

WPB emphasized that the quantities to be distributed to civilians for household and agricultural use in the next few months will be small and will meet only a small percentage of the civilian demand for the war-developed insecticides. These allotments will not be increased until there is a cut in military requirements, the agency added.

The committee discussed a proposed revision to Schedule 25 (DDT) of the general chemicals allocation order, M-300, in line with this liberalized policy. It recommended that a production exemption be included in the amended order to permit the very small producers to operate without War Production Board authorization for the sale of their output.

The committee approved the WPB proposal that excess material, after military needs are met, be placed under paragraph (f) of M-300. With such an arrangement, a person desiring DDT can obtain it from his preferred supplier, if material is available. No application forms, end use certificates or WPB authorizations would be required.

Tomato Nutritive Requirements

Rapid tissue tests were made two and three times during the season on tomatoes growing in five field fertilizer experiments at the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, according to the latest report from that Station. Since findings of the preceding year indicated that tissue samples taken from the petioles of leaves halfway up the stem gave the best general indication of the nutrient status of the plant, such petiole samples were used exclusively during the summer of 1942.

The chemical tests have demonstrated that it is possible to maintain a high phosphate concentration in the tomato plant even at the peak of production, and best yields were obtained when the phosphate level was very high. Further research is necessary, however, to determine whether it is profitable to maintain such a high level.

From a study of the correlation of fruit production and test results for nitrogen and potash in the plant the following tentative conclusions may be drawn: (1) The nitrate level in tomato plants should be low or medium for at least a part of the season, but some nitrate should always be present; (2) The concentration of potash in the plant should be maintained at about 5,000 parts per million.